UNAIDS call for price cut of AIDS drugs

2937. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, recently, UNAIDS called for a price cut for AIDS drugs and the WHO stressed for more funds to check the epidemic in developing world; and

(b) if so, the details of the coordination between his Ministry, UNAIDS and WHO by way of campaign for cheaper AIDS medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. UN General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS was held in New York on 25—27th June, 2001. In its declaration of commitment, it was decided to set up a Global Health Fund for HIV/AIDS prevention and control. The declaration includes:

(i) National strategies are developed to strengthen health care systems and address factors affecting the provision of HIV-related drugs, including anti-retroviral drugs—by year 2003;

(ii) Development & implementation of comprehensive care strategies to strengthen family and community based systems to provide and monitor treatment to PLWHA (People living with HIV/AIDS)—by year 2005;

(iii) To ensure that national strategies are developed by order to provide psyco-social care for individuals, families and communities affected by HIV/AIDS—by year 2003;

India is a signatory to the declaration.

Use of conventional glass syringes

2938. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that conventional glass syringes are more safer then the modern plastic syringes;

(b) if so, the steps Government have contemplated or propose to replace the plastic disposable syringes with glass ones; and